

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/MST:WLSULLIVAN:MJB

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE

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FOL RPT SOFIA 2767 ACTION SECSTATE INFO MOSCOW MONTREAL

DEC 19. QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ICNAF, OCON, XN, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN INTENTION TO ENTER RESERVATION REGARDING
MONTREAL ICNAF DECISION

REF: A) STATE 193300; B) STATE 240675; C) STATE 251828;

D) SOFIA 1765

1. AT RECEPTION OF DEPARTING FRENCH AMBASSADOR LAST NIGHT, BOGOMIL TODOROV OF LAWS AND TREATIES DEPARTMENT, MFA, INFORMED ME CASUALLY THAT BULGARIA INTENDS TO ENTER A RESERVATION PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE OF DECEMBER 31, TO THE ALLOCATIONS OF FISHING CATCHES AGREED AT THE MONTREAL ICNAF MEETING IN OCTOBER. PRESUMABLY HE WAS REFERRING TO THE OBJECTION PROCEDURE DESCRIBED PARA 2 REF A.

2. I URGED TODOROV TO GIVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH HIM IN DETAIL BEFORE THE OBJECTION IS FILED, AND COMMENTED THAT MATTER HAS POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS GOING FAR BEYOND FISHERY ASPECT.

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3. TODOROV SAID HIS MINISTRY HAD COME UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES THAT BULGARIAN FISHING IN NORTH ATLANTIC WOULD BE "FINISHED" BY THE ALLOCATIONS MADE IN MONTREAL. I SAID IT WAS ALL THE MORE REGRETTABLE THAT BULGARIA WAS NOT REPRESENTED AT THAT MEETING. TODOROV SAID HE HAD MADE THE SAME POINT, BUT FELT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD TO ACT TO PROTECT A BULGARIAN ECONOMIC INTEREST.

4. I INQUIRED WHETHER BULGARIA HAD BEEN IN TOUCH ON THIS MATTER WITH ITS "SOCIALIST FRIENDS", NOTABLY THE SOVIET UNION. TODOROV SAID NO. I MENTIONED DESIRABILITY OF WIDEST POSSIBLE COORDINATION. ADDED THAT IF BULGARIA UPSETS THE CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED MONTREAL COMPROMISE, IT COULD PUSH THE US CONGRESS INTO UNILATERALLY DECLARING A 200-MILE FISHING ZONE, WHICH IN TURN COULD HAVE ADVERSE REPERCUSSIONS ON OBJECTIVES WHICH THE US AND OTHER MARITIME NATIONS, INCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION, NEEDED TO ACHIEVE AT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. TODOROV EXPRESSED DISBELIEF THAT SUCH A LITTLE ACTION ON THE PART OF LITTLE BULGARIA COULD HAVE SUCH FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE ARGUMENTATION FROM THE DEPT THAT COULD BE USED IN INTERVIEW THAT I EXPECT TO HAVE WITH TODOROV ON MONDAY DEC 22. IF IT IS REALLY TRUE THAT A BULGARIAN OBJECTION WOULD HAVE FAR-REACHING EFFECTS IN UNRAVELING WHAT WAS ACHIEVED WITH SUCH DIFFICULTY AT MONTREAL, AND THAT THIS COULD HAVE REPERCUSSIONS ON THE LOS CONFERENCE, I WOULD NEED TO CITE CHAPTER AND VERSE TO HIM ON THAT OCCASION. DEPT MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER EMBASSY MOSCOW COULD PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN THIS MATTER.
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